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Human Rights Council
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26 February–23 March 2018
Agenda item 3

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 22 March 2018

37/11. The effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Reaffirming all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the effects of structural adjustment and economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, the latest being Council resolution 34/3 of 23 March 2017,

Reaffirming also its resolution 34/11 of 23 March 2017,

Reaffirming further its resolution S-10/1 of 23 February 2009 on the impact of the global economic and financial crises on the universal realization and effective enjoyment of human rights,

Bearing in mind paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Stressing that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character,

Emphasizing that the World Conference on Human Rights agreed to call upon the international community to make all efforts to help to alleviate the external debt burden of developing countries in order to supplement the efforts of the Governments of such countries to attain the full realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of their people,

Stressing the primacy of the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard underlining the fundamental principles of international cooperation, which are pivotal for the practical achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Stressing also the determination expressed in the 2030 Agenda to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and to address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress,

Recognizing the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and noting that, despite international debt relief efforts, many countries remain vulnerable to debt crisis and some are in the midst of a crisis, including a number of least developed countries and small island developing States and some developed countries,

Mindful of the role, mandate and activities of other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in dealing with the issues of foreign debt and international financial obligations,

Acknowledging that there is greater acceptance that the increasing debt burden faced by the most indebted developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, is unsustainable and constitutes one of the principal obstacles to achieving progress in people-centred sustainable development and poverty eradication and that, for many developing and some developed countries, excessive debt servicing has severely constrained their capacity to promote social development and provide basic services to create the conditions for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights,

Expressing its concern that, despite repeated rescheduling of debt, developing countries continue to pay out more each year than the actual amount they receive in official development assistance,

Recalling the Basic Principles on Sovereign Debt Restructuring Processes, which emphasize that sovereign debt restructuring workouts should be completed in a timely and efficient manner and lead to a stable debt situation in the debtor State, minimizing economic and social costs, warranting the stability of the international financial system and respecting human rights,

Recognizing the sovereign right of any State to restructure its sovereign debt, which should not be frustrated or impeded by any measure emanating from another State,

Recognizing also that illicit financial flows, including tax evasion by high net-worth individuals, commercial tax evasion through trade misinvoicing and tax avoidance by transnational corporations, contribute to the build-up of unsustainable debt, as Governments lacking domestic revenue may resort to external borrowing,

Emphasizing that inequality continues to increase, and that it often contributes to social exclusion and the marginalization of certain groups and individuals,

Recognizing the severe human rights impact of the recent financial crisis and that human rights have not always being taken into account in the development of policy responses to the crisis,

Affirming that debt burden further complicates the numerous problems facing developing countries, contributes to extreme poverty and is an obstacle to sustainable human development, and is thus a serious impediment to the realization of all human rights,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights,[1] and welcomes the work and contributions of the Independent Expert;

[1] A/HRC/37/54.

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the mapping of human rights impact assessment tools undertaken by the Independent Expert,[2] and requests him to continue to develop guiding principles for assessing the human rights impact of economic reform policies, in consultation with States and all other relevant stakeholders, and to submit the guiding principles to the Human Rights Council at its fortieth session;

3. *Recalls* that every State has the primary responsibility to promote the economic, social and cultural development of its people and, to that end, has the right and responsibility to choose its means and goals of development and should not be subject to external specific prescriptions for economic policy;

4. *Recognizes* that more than two thirds of countries across the world are contracting their public purses and limiting, rather than expanding, their fiscal space;

5. *Reaffirms* the fact that responses to the global economic and financial crises should not result in a decrease in debt relief, nor should they be used as an excuse to stop debt relief measures, as that would have negative implications for the enjoyment of human rights in affected countries;

6. *Recognizes* that debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with attaining sustainable growth and development, including poverty reduction and the achievement of development goals, including those set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and therefore that debt relief measures, where appropriate, should be pursued vigorously and expeditiously, ensuring that they do not replace alternative sources of financing and that they are accompanied by an increase in official development assistance;

7. *Also recognizes* that not all efforts to reduce public spending are harmful to human rights, and calls for consistent public spending policies that ensure full compliance with the human rights obligations of States and for those policies to take into account the fact that the human rights of the poorest and most vulnerable must be respected, protected and fulfilled;

8. *Recalls once again* the call on industrialized countries to implement the enhanced programme of debt relief without further delay and to agree to cancel all the official bilateral debt of those countries covered by the programme in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction;

9. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and the private sector, to take appropriate measures and actions for the implementation of the pledges, commitments, agreements and decisions of major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the World Conference on Human Rights, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the World Conference on Sustainable Development and the International Conference on Financing for Development, in particular those relating to the question of the external debt problem of developing countries, in particular of heavily indebted poor countries, least developed countries and countries with economies in transition;

10. *Stresses* that the economic reform programmes arising from foreign debt should maximize the policy space of developing countries in pursuing their national development efforts, taking into account the views of relevant stakeholders in a way that ensures balanced development conducive to the overall realization of all human rights;

11. *Also stresses* that the economic programmes arising from foreign debt relief and cancellation must not reproduce past structural adjustment policies that have not worked, such as dogmatic demands for privatization and reduced public services;

12 *Further stresses* that fiscal consolidation and economic reform measures should never violate the minimum core content of economic, social and cultural rights, nor be directly or indirectly discriminatory or result in the adoption of impermissible

[2] See A/HRC/37/54.

retrogressive measures in terms of the enjoyment or implementation of economic, social and cultural rights;

13. *Calls upon* States, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to continue to cooperate closely to ensure that additional resources made available through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other new initiatives are absorbed in the recipient countries without affecting ongoing programmes;

14. *Urges* States, international financial institutions and the private sector to take urgent measures to alleviate the debt problem of those developing countries particularly affected by HIV/AIDS so that more financial resources may be released and used for health care, research and treatment of the population in the affected countries;

15. *Reiterates* its view that, in order to find a durable solution to the debt problem and for the consideration of any new debt resolution mechanism, there is a need for a broad political dialogue between creditor and debtor countries and the multilateral financial institutions, within the United Nations system, based on the principle of shared interests and responsibilities;

16. *Encourages* States to continue to consider improved approaches to restructuring sovereign debt, taking into account the Basic Principles on Sovereign Debt Restructuring Processes and the work carried out by international financial institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates;

17. *Reiterates* its request to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to pay more attention to the problem of the debt burden of developing countries, in particular of least developed countries, and especially the social impact of the measures arising from foreign debt;

18. *Takes note* of the work of the Advisory Committee on the activities of vulture funds and their impact on human rights, and requests the Committee to submit the final report thereon to the Human Rights Council at its forty-first session;

19. *Requests* the Independent Expert to continue to explore the interlinkages with trade and other issues, including HIV/AIDS, when examining the impact of structural adjustment and foreign debt, and also to contribute, as appropriate, to the process entrusted with the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development with a view to bringing to its attention the issue of the effects of structural adjustment and foreign debt on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights;

20. *Encourages* the Independent Expert to continue to cooperate, in accordance with his mandate, with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, special rapporteurs, independent experts and members of the expert working groups of the Human Rights Council and its Advisory Committee on issues relating to economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development in his work;

21. *Requests* the Independent Expert to report regularly to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly in accordance with their respective programmes of work;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Independent Expert with all necessary assistance, in particular all the staff and resources required to carry out his functions;

23. *Urges* Governments, international organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to cooperate fully with the Independent Expert in the discharge of the mandate;

24. *Requests* the Independent Expert to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council at its fortieth session;

25. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this matter at its fortieth session under the same agenda item.

53rd meeting
22 March 2018

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 27 to 16, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Burundi, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Against:

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Mexico, Panama, Peru]

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Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 22 March 2018

37/12. Mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and all other relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling also all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, the most recent being Council resolution 34/2 of 23 March 2017,

Noting the declarations within the United Nations system on cultural diversity and international cultural cooperation, in particular the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Cooperation and the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1966 and 2001, respectively,

Recalling its resolutions 5/1, on institution-building of the Human Rights Council, and 5/2, on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that all mandate holders shall discharge their duties in accordance with those resolutions and annexes thereto,

Welcoming the increasing number of States parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 20 October 2005 and that entered into force on 18 March 2007,

Convinced that international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all should be based on an understanding of the economic, social and cultural specificities of each country and the full realization and recognition of the universality of all human rights and the principles of freedom, justice, equality and non-discrimination,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are a source of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Determined to treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

1. *Reaffirms* that cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent;

2. *Recognizes* the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;

3. *Reaffirms* that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Recalls* that, as expressed in the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, no one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope;

5. *Reaffirms* that States have the responsibility to promote and protect cultural rights, and that these rights should be guaranteed for all, without discrimination;

6. *Recognizes* that respect for the cultural diversity and cultural rights of all enhances inclusion and cultural pluralism, contributing to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural heritage and background, advancing the application and enjoyment of human rights throughout the world and fostering stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

7. *Also recognizes* that respect for cultural rights is essential for development, peace and the eradication of poverty, building social cohesion and the promotion of mutual respect, tolerance and understanding between individuals and groups, in all their diversity;

8. *Emphasizes* that the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including cultural rights, and respect for cultural diversity should reinforce each other;

9. *Welcomes* the work and contributions of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, and takes note with appreciation of her latest report submitted to the Human Rights Council;[1]

10. *Decides* to renew, for a period of three years, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, to enable the mandate holder to continue to work in accordance with the mandate established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 19/6;

11. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and to assist the Special Rapporteur in the discharge of the mandate, to provide the mandate holder with all the necessary information requested by her, and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests of the mandate holder to visit their countries in order to enable her to fulfil her duties effectively;

12. *Requests* the United High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate by the Special Rapporteur;

13. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to report regularly to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly in accordance with their respective programmes of work;

14. *Also requests* the Special Rapporteur, within the scope of her mandate, to participate in relevant international forums related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to contribute to its implementation, including by providing advice to States, international organizations, civil society and other stakeholders on the effective respect, protection and fulfilment of cultural rights in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

[1] A/HRC/37/55.

15. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this matter under the same agenda item in accordance with its programme of work.

53rd meeting
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[Adopted without a vote.]

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Agenda item 3

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 22 March 2018

37/13. Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the principles of economic, social and cultural rights enshrined in international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the 2005 World Summit Outcome and General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which the Assembly established the Human Rights Council, all affirm that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and recalling also that the respect, promotion and fulfilment of one category of rights should never exempt States from the respect, promotion and fulfilment of the other rights,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which the Heads of State and Government affirmed their commitment to spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as peace, development and respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and believing that broad and sustained efforts are needed to build a community of shared future for all human beings in which the human person is the central subject of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business, and aiming to contribute to the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030,

Reaffirming also the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2016, in which States reaffirmed the human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of status, and pledged to fully protect such rights,

Recognizing that the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda cover a wide range of issues relating to economic, social and cultural rights, in particular availability, accessibility, affordability and quality of services, and many dimensions of civil and political rights, as well as issues that are related to domestic resource mobilization, international cooperation and the right to development, and that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be consistent with a State's obligations under international human rights law,

Recalling its resolutions on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights, and the resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights on the same topic,

Reaffirming the obligations and commitments to take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures,

Underlining the human rights principles of, inter alia, non-discrimination, human dignity, equity, equality, universality, participation and accountability, as affirmed in international human rights law and in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and emphasizing that the rights enunciated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are to be realized in a non-discriminatory manner,

Recalling the commitment included in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the Covenant, and welcoming the inclusion of both gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as a stand-alone goal, and its integration into all goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and throughout the implementation process,

Recognizing that human rights and social protection floors complement each other, and that social protection floors, when used as a baseline, have the potential to facilitate the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and to reduce poverty and inequality,

1. *Calls upon* all States to give full effect to economic, social and cultural rights by, inter alia, taking all appropriate measures to implement the Human Rights Council resolutions on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights, the most recent of which is resolution 34/4 of 23 March 2017;

2. *Also calls upon* all States that have not yet signed and ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to consider doing so as a matter of priority, and States parties to consider reviewing their reservations thereto;

3. *Welcomes* the most recent ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and encourages all States that have not yet signed and ratified the Optional Protocol to consider doing so, and also to consider making declarations under articles 10 and 11 thereof;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights, with a special focus on the role of economic, social and cultural rights in building sustainable and resilient societies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/4,[1] and of the conclusions contained therein;

5. *Emphasizes* that, in General Assembly resolution 70/1, States committed to taking bold and transformative steps that were urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path, pledged that no one would be left behind and that they would endeavour to reach the furthest behind first, recognized that the dignity of the human person

[1] A/HRC/37/30.

was fundamental, envisaged a world of universal respect for equality and non-discrimination and included the concepts of resilience and sustainability in the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;

6. *Recognizes* that working towards sustainable and resilient societies requires States to mitigate the risks of natural and human-made hazards and disasters, such as those arising from the impact of, inter alia, climate change and unsustainable development planning and activities, while acknowledging the links between sustainability and resilience and the enjoyment of all human rights;

7. *Also recognizes* that freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, and the right of citizens to take part in the conduct of public affairs are essential for disaster preparedness and protection from environmental harm, and that it is important to engage and consult with a broad range of stakeholders at all levels concerning effective action on all aspects of disaster risk reduction;

8. *Urges* States to raise awareness about applicable national and international law in order to strengthen the resilience and protection of people at risk from natural and human-made hazards and disasters;

9. *Also urges* States to enhance international cooperation in order to complement and strengthen their national disaster risk reduction action and capacity;

10. *Further urges* States to take action to build resilience and work towards sustainable societies, including, as appropriate, by enacting and implementing laws on all relevant aspects of disaster risk mitigation and by setting up information, education, prevention, mitigation, participation, investigation, prosecution and recovery mechanisms and procedures in case of natural and human-made hazards and disasters, in accordance with their international obligations and commitments;

11. *Urges* States to adopt or further develop procedures for information-gathering and measurement that may, if analysed in the light of international human rights law principles and standards, serve as national indicators for State decision-making processes, and are transparent, participatory and allow for accountability;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of international human rights mechanisms, including the international human rights treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies, the special procedures and the universal periodic review in promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in accordance with States' human rights obligations, encourages States to give due consideration to information, observations and recommendations from human rights mechanisms when implementing and monitoring progress of the 2030 Agenda, and to promote the cooperation of all stakeholders towards the full integration of human rights into the said processes;

13. *Underlines* the importance of an effective remedy for violations of economic, social and cultural rights, and in this regard notes with appreciation the measures taken to facilitate access to complaints procedures and the domestic adjudication of cases, as appropriate, for victims of alleged human rights violations;

14. *Welcomes* the steps taken at the national level to implement economic, social and cultural rights, including the enactment of appropriate legislation and adjudication by national courts, and in this regard underlines the need to consider justiciability when determining the best way to give domestic legal effect to the rights in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

15. *Recognizes* that the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets seek to, inter alia, realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and that they are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely the economic, social and environmental, calls upon States to implement the 2030 Agenda consistent with the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and in this regard encourages States to consider appropriate measures to promote de facto equality;

16. *Acknowledges* that social protection floors may facilitate the enjoyment of human rights, including the rights to social security, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing and housing, education and safe drinking water and sanitation, in accordance with

the human rights obligations of States, and in this regard underlines the importance of acting consistently with the principles of non-discrimination, transparency, participation and accountability;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the work carried out by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to assist States parties in fulfilling their obligations, including through the submission of general comments, the consideration of periodic reports and, for States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Covenant, the examination of individual communications;

18. *Also notes with appreciation* the work of other relevant treaty bodies and special procedures in the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights within their respective mandates;

19. *Encourages* enhanced cooperation and, as appropriate, increased coordination between the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and programmes, mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and other human rights treaty bodies whose activities have a bearing on economic, social and cultural rights, in a manner that respects their distinctive mandates and promotes their policies, programmes and projects;

20. *Recognizes and encourages* the important contributions of regional organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, business enterprises and trade unions, to the question of the realization and enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, including training and information activities;

21. *Welcomes* the activities carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, mainly through technical cooperation, the work of its field offices, its relevant reports to United Nations bodies, the development of in-house expertise, including on human rights indicators, and its publications, studies, training and information activities on related issues, including through new information technologies;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to prepare and submit to the Human Rights Council an annual report on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights under agenda item 3, with a special focus on the role of economic, social and cultural rights in empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality;

23. *Decides* to remain seized of this issue and to consider taking further action in order to implement the present resolution.

53rd meeting
22 March 2018

[Adopted without a vote.]